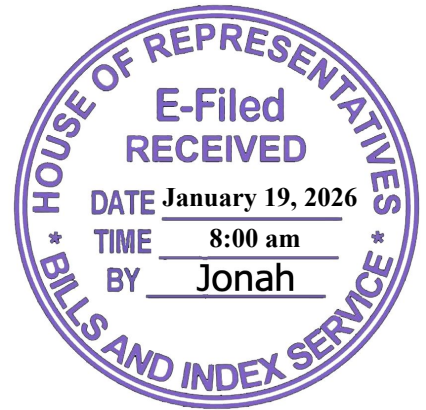




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 7148

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Dialysis is a life-sustaining medical procedure that removes waste products and excess fluid from the blood when the kidneys can no longer perform these vital functions. Patients who undergo dialysis suffer from End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), a condition commonly resulting from chronic hypertension and diabetes.

In the Philippines, an estimated 2.3 million Filipinos are at risk of living with chronic kidney disease (CKD).¹ Data obtained from the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi) reveals that approximately one Filipino develops chronic renal failure every hour, translating to roughly 120 Filipinos per million population annually. Unfortunately, under diagnosis remains a persistent problem.² According to NKTi, the number of individuals undergoing dialysis treatment has reached 64,845 in 2024, a 22-percent increase from 53,296 recorded in 2023.³

In the first half of 2025 alone, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) paid approximately ₱27 billion for over 2 million hemodialysis claims - — almost matching the PHP28 billion paid for the entire year of 2024. This amount underscores both the scale of the disease and the financial strain it places on the healthcare system.

Patients with CKD5 typically require two to three dialysis sessions per week, each costing around ₱4,500. This translates to a staggering ₱9,000 to ₱13,500 per week, or ₱36,000 to ₱54,000 per month, just to stay alive. While PhilHealth has

¹ December 19, 2025. Managing Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD): When renal replacement therapy becomes a life-saving option. Makati Medical Center. Available at <https://www.makatimed.net.ph/blogs/managing-chronic-kidney-disease-ckd-when-renal-replacement-therapy-becomes-a-life-saving-option/>. Accessed on January 12, 2026.

² Rising incidence of chronic kidney disease in the Philippines sparks call for kidney health awareness. Philippine Society of Nephrology. Available at <https://psn.org.ph/2024/03/01/rising-incidence-of-chronic-kidney-disease-in-the-philippines-sparks-call-for-kidney-health-awareness-subtitle-the-philippine-society-of-nephrology-urges-filipinos-to-take-proactive-measures/>. Accessed on January 12, 2026.

³ June 18, 2025. NKTi: Patients undergoing dialysis up 22% in 2024. Philippine News Agency. Available at <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1252423#>. Accessed on January 12, 2026.

expanded its coverage to 156 sessions per year, many patients still struggle because of the challenges in accessing dialysis centers.

According to PhilHealth as of December 31, 2025, there were 817 accredited dialysis clinics in the country – 780 of which are private while 37 are government-owned.⁴ While the number of centers increase in recent years, the limited availability of dialysis clinics in rural regions remain a major challenge of the country’s healthcare system. The high cost and limited accessibility of dialysis treatment centers create immense hardship for patients—particularly those from low-income families and those living in remote areas. Aside from the physical and emotional toll of their condition, patients face severe financial strain, reduced productivity, and diminished quality of life.

This bill seeks to mandate the establishment of dialysis centers in all national, regional, and provincial hospitals to ensure that kidney patients across the country can readily access life-saving treatment without the need to travel long distances.

Moreover, the bill provides that indigent patients shall receive free dialysis treatment in these centers, recognizing the disproportionate burden borne by the poor and upholding their right to affordable healthcare.

In light of the growing prevalence of kidney disease and the pressing need to make dialysis treatment both accessible and affordable, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

⁴ Health Facilities Status of Accreditation. Philippine Health Insurance Corporation. Available at <https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/partners/providers/facilities/status.php>. Accessed on January 12, 2026.



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HOUSE BILL NO. 7148

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AN ACT
REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIALYSIS CLINICS IN ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS AND PROVIDING FOR FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENTS TO INDIGENT PATIENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State
2 to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness
3 among them. For this purpose, the State shall ensure that patients suffering from End
4 Stage Renal Disease are accorded timely and appropriate treatment with the provision
5 of accessible dialysis clinics and free dialysis treatments.
6

7 **SEC. 2. Establishment of Dialysis Clinics in all National, Regional and**
8 **Provincial Hospitals.** - There shall be established dialysis clinics in all national,
9 regional and provincial hospitals in the country. The dialysis clinics shall be equipped
10 with sufficient machines, equipment, paraphernalia and supplies and staffed with the
11 appropriate number of medical and other personnel.
12

13 The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the local government units
14 and other relevant government agencies, shall lead the establishment of these clinics.
15

16 **SEC. 3. Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patients.** — The Department of
17 Health, in coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, shall ensure
18 that indigent patients are accorded free dialysis treatments in national, regional or
19 provincial hospitals. For this purpose, an indigent patient refers to a patient who has
20 no visible means of income, or whose income is insufficient for the subsistence of
21 his/her family, as identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development
22 (DSWD).
23

1 **SEC. 4. Authority to Receive Donations and Exemption from Donor's Taxes,**
2 **Customs and Tariff Duties.** - The DOH shall have the authority to receive donations,
3 gifts and bequests in order to augment the funding for the establishment of the dialysis
4 clinics created in accordance with this Act. All donations, contributions or endowments
5 which may be made by persons or entities to the dialysis clinics in national, regional
6 and provincial hospitals and the importation of medical equipment and machineries,
7 spare parts and other medical equipment used solely and exclusively by the dialysis
8 clinics shall be exempt from income or donor's taxes, any other direct or indirect taxes,
9 wharfage fees and other charges and restrictions.

10
11 **SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days from
12 the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health, upon consultation with relevant
13 stakeholders, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations to implement the
14 provisions of this Act.

15
16 **SEC. 6. Appropriations.** - An initial amount of One Billion Pesos
17 (P1,000,000,000) shall be appropriated for the implementation of this Act. Thereafter,
18 its appropriation shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

19
20 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
21 unconstitutional, the remainder hereof or any provisions not affected thereby shall
22 remain in force and effect.

23
24 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
25 executive order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions
26 of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

27 **SEC. 9. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
28 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

29
30 *Approved,*